Dear Jim, My yesterday's letter to Mark Lane 12/20/76

I got up earlier than usual for work I was not able to complete last night and my eye was taken by the letter to Lane Lil had retyped for me.

Let me add a few things.

Do you for a minute think that he would have been silent going on eight years if Stevens had told him the man he "saw" was not Ray?

This is typical Lane. Who is going to deny it? Stephens is a drunk nobody believes, even asks.

But it did not happen anyway. Mark cares nothing about truth and nobody ever has any interest in keeping him honest.

I have no doubt that he was in Memphis. He was on the Garrison teat then and Memphis is close to New Orleans. But he never came up with anything. Any place he went. Except the garbage he put on film and couldn't use. He did a long bit with Dago Garner in which Garner boasted of homosexual relations with both Oswald and Ruby. Terrible stuff like that, what he thought could get attention. Same with Roger Craig. In these and in other cases he followed up after others. He steals without discrimination.

If Mark really knew the fact of the King assassination it probably would have made no difference. He does and says anything and people who do not know him or the realities generally are impressed.. But the give-away is that he was in Memphis before Ray was identified so he could not have asked Stephens to "identify" Ray. After Ray was identified by the FBI CBS was there with a picture. They did not then use their footage but they did film Stephens, I think 4/19/68. This was the week after Mark was then and left empty-handed.

His m.o. then was to go around and say he was the "representative" of the New Orleans District Attorney. With the college kids that went over big. In Memphis, a town you now know well enough, it just scared the hell out of most people, especially some of the blacks. So they turn to those they feared, which is how I know about some of it. From the local cops to FBI Inspectors. I have records on this. I've made an extra copy of one that will amuse you.

Mark's problem comes from all he has, what he makes out on - his mouth. I know when he was in Memphis also from him. He sees an open mike and the most incredible stuff pours out. He makes it up as he goes and then believes it. So one of the ways I know he was in Memphis laying eggs before Ray was identified is from a tape of one of his broadcasts an outraged student sent me. Probably more than one but I remember one.

You should have asked him why he did not give that hot evidence to defense counsel if he had it. There was to have been a trial. And here he is the champion of the oppressed.

Before he put together the fairy-tale he told you about how he got to see Ray he once told the truth. It also was sent to me. I think the bar will be interested if they ask you any more about your complaint. Of course Mark will probably be going around flashing the paper he got Ray to sign but not Ray's withdrawl of it. He did not get to see Jimmy because Jimmy wrote and asked him to be Jimmy's lawyer. He may have slick-talked Jimmy into something like a meaningless FOIA deal but not to be his lawyer, I'm sure. He falls short of saying this in his letter to you. He only implies it. He flashes that kind of paper to impress those who know nothing. I'd be surprised if he is not doing this with his non-response to you. He has often enough in the past.

Thanks for the letters. It is entertaining. Especially when taken with his virtuoso display of worse than ignorance. Those parts are going to kick back hard. And it won't be long, either. I can see it happening when it is too late and the book is wrecked. I'll love it. I've never asked for fairness doctrine time on these things but then I will!

Best,

Dear Jim, attached letter to the phoney mark 12/19/76

As you will see, I deal with myself only except for the one truthful reference to you, that I had nothing to do with your filing chagges against him with the bar.

Of course I deal with Mark, in a way that puts Prentice, Hall on further notice.

Mark has to be completely out of control or desparate beyond description to file an suit against me.

He may yet get that desparate.

If he does I'l start pro se and do my own deposing.

For this would I enjoy going into debt again!

He duplicated Foreman completely in getting to see Ray. If my memos on this are not specific enough it is the Cigna show on KDKA, Pittsburgh, and my source is Karen. She is also the source on the Mann stories. That is, the home-town boy story.

She is this good, dependable a person: just out of college she has a sort of legal-apprentice job with Westinghouse, which is being sued and has to produce some 35,000 records. Her performance on this job has been so outstanding that in a very short time she has been promoted and they are talking to her about helping her get a legal education. She made my JFK sculpture. Lil and I are fond of her.

It is on this tape that he discloses other than he has recently written you/ about how he got to see Ray, the time the warden was not there.

You have the tape of his own account of how he got to see Holloman, Coretta and others. Please preserve and return it to me. If you want a dub I'll make it for you. It holds what many people will not want known. Helpful to truth and decency.

I'm so glad that his insane inability to respond to you drobe him to bring me in.

Please be open-minded about what smells like the ripest Lane: I am told that. He may want to give the impression that this is Jimmy. Maybe it is.But I think it at least as likely that it was the Freed crew.

Also, do not lose sight of the fact that he makes no reference to my writing the American Program Bureau, in Mass., which has not responded since I put them on notice.

The time has come not to ignore his disinformation operations and thefts. He has set the stage with an abundance of people who will not want to be soiled and can be called and can avoid being soiled by truth.

If I force him.

We'll see soon enough.

Best,